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is supplied. The account of the Harvard Observatory, near Arequipa, and its work is noteworthy; also the account of the trip in the new tunnel through the Andes from Argentine to Chile. Director General John Barrett of the Pan American Union writes an appreciative preface. DAVID H. BUEL.

Venezuela. By Leonard V. Dalton. 320 pp. Map, ills., index. T. Fisher Unwin, London, 1912. 9 x 6.

Venezuela is known among us as the land of coffee and asphalt, of Bolívar and Castro, upon the occasion of whose boundary dispute with Great Britain President Cleveland pronounced his strong reassertion of the Monroe Doctrine. In the 241 pages of his book the author of this work gives a clear but brief account of all these matters. The chapters on the history of the country, political, commercial and industrial, are more extended than those dealing with the geography, geology, botany, zoology and ethnology. His account of education in Venezuela is quite brief, perhaps because education itself is not much developed there. The illustrations are good half-tones of the scenery, public buildings and monuments of the country. A map in black and white displays the mountains, rivers, international and state boundaries, the capitals, railroads and roads of Venezuela. The appendices record the figures for population, trade, meteorology, vital statistics, and finance. The bibliography quotes 411 works on Venezuela. The final chapter on the future of the country is timely.

DAVID H. BUEL.

AFRICA

The Agricultural and Forest Products of British West Africa.

By Gerald C. Dudgeon. Imperial Inst. Handbooks. x and 170 pp. Maps, ills., index. John Murray, London, 1911. 5s. 9 x 5½.

A careful account of the vegetable commercial resources of Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Ashanti, Northern Territories, Northern Nigeria and Southern Nigeria.

The Guide to South and East Africa for the use of Tourists, Sportsmen, Invalids and Settlers. Edited annually by A. Samler Brown and G. Gordon Brown. liv and 695 pp. Maps, ills. Union-Castle Mail SS. Co., Ltd., London, 1913.

This book improves with every issue. An enormous amount of accurate and up-to-date information is made readily accessible by a good index. The most important maps, by George Philip & Son, have the symbolism used by the best map-makers of Germany and are fine specimens of scientific map generalization. For the vast territory covered this book is one of the best reference sources.

Botanical Features of the Algerian Sahara. By William Austin Cannon. vi and 81 pp. Map, ills. Carnegie Inst., Washington, D. C., 1913. \$2.50 10 x 7.

The principal object of this entertaining volume is to add to the breadth of the phytogeographic studies now prosecuted at the desert laboratory of the Carnegie Institution. To geographers the great value of these researches is that they serve to establish upon an observational basis the problems of desiccation in their relation to habitability in past epochs. No little study has been devoted of late to the questions of climatic variation in reference to the very extensive remains of former habitation of the greater deserts. Sir Aurel Stein, Sven Hedin and Prof. Ellsworth Huntington have furnished data covering the deserts of inner Asia, Prof. Huntington has proposed a theory of desiccation. Mr. Cannon in this careful paper reads the lesson of the plants and makes plain the significance of the line of equilibrium, of balanced poise between the aeolian waste of sand and the plant growth of the arid region. In the end these two forces tend to establish permanence, but in the episodes there is an unevenness in the action of the forces, the vegetal force being slow and sure to the very limit of its possibility, the aeolian marked by sudden and